

TOP SECRET

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EUROPE

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1. PORTUGAL: Possible Communist-inspired disturbances--  
US Ambassador MacVeagh transmits a report [redacted]

[redacted] that Portuguese police expect the Communists to initiate a revolutionary uprising during or following the regular presidential elections scheduled for 13 February.

[redacted] the police believe that the Government can control such an uprising. The Ambassador comments that practiced observers believe the opposition lacks the popular leadership necessary for an effective coup but that police precautions are warranted in view of possible election disturbances and Communist exploitation.

(CIA Comment: Although election disturbances are possible, CIA believes that government forces are adequate to control the situation and that Portugal's cooperation in world economic recovery and western defense will not be imperiled.)

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